



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
**West Virginia Field Office**  
**1900 Kanawha Blvd E**  
**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 6, 2018

Contact: Charmaine Wilson  
(304) 357-5126

## JANUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

**Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production** during January 2018 totaled 700,000 pounds. This was down 4 percent from January 2017. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 1,004,000 pounds live weight, up 1 percent from January 2017. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,027 pounds.

**Commercial calf slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 199,000 pounds live weight, down 15 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 5 pounds from the previous year, at 300 pounds.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**United States – Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.59 billion pounds in January, up 7 percent from the 4.29 billion pounds produced in January 2017.

**Beef production**, at 2.28 billion pounds, was 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.76 million head, up 7 percent from January 2017. The average live weight was up 6 pounds from the previous year, at 1,376 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 6.6 million pounds, 5 percent above January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 49,000 head, 5 percent above January 2017. The average live weight was unchanged from last year, at 235 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.29 billion pounds, 6 percent above the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.7 million head, 6 percent above January 2017. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 286 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 12.5 million pounds, was 2 percent above January 2017. Sheep slaughter totaled 176,300 head, slightly below last year. The average live weight was 142 pounds, up 4 pounds from January a year ago.

**January 2017** contained 22 weekdays (including 2 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.  
**January 2018** contained 23 weekdays (including 2 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

*Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.*